

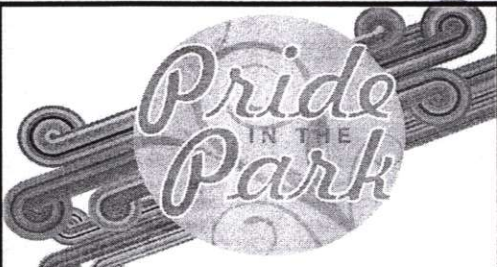
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VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 11 NO. 7

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2008



GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE IN THE PARK SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 NOON TO 6PM

CEDAR BEACH PARK, ALLENTOWN

See more about the event on page 3.

And see a huge photo album after the event at

PA Diversity Network's web site at

www.padiversity.org

RAINBOW ROSE COMMUNITY TO HOST

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S PHOTO PROJECT - 275 SAME-SEX COUPLES: FACING INEQUALITY

FOR ALL OF OCTOBER

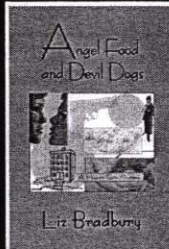
AT THE WARNER GALLERY

323 N QUEEN ST, LANCASTER

Contact: info@rainbowrosecommunity.org or see www.padiversity.org for more info. As of July 20th, the

PDN Photo Project has 264 couples.

Couples: To join the Project, have your photo taken at the PDN Booth. Read more about the Project on page 9.



BOOK READING & SIGNING - AUGUST 16 8:30PM

AT DIAMONZ
1913W. BROAD ST.,
BETHLEHEMto benefit
PA Diversity Network
& GLV PrideLiz Bradbury will be reading from her new lesbian mystery/romance novel *Angel Food and Devil Dogs*. Read more about it at www.BoudicaPublishing.com or at Amazon.com.

gay • lesbian • bisexual • transgender • transsexual • straight • allies

14th Annual PRIDE PICNIC at Knoebels Grove Knoebel's Grove Amusement Park Elysburg PA

14TH ANNUAL PICNIC AT
KNOEBELS AMUSEMENT
PARK ON SAT, AUGUST 9

Read more about it on page 4.

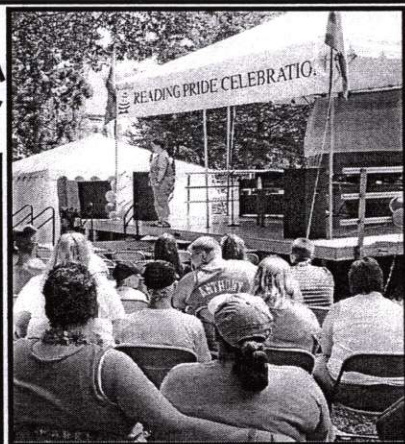
The 23rd

Sunday, September 7th, 2007



AT RAINBOW MOUNTAIN - READ MORE ON PAGE 3

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK COMMUNITY YARD SALE AND FLEA MARKET IN DIAMONZ PARKING LOT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Rent a booth and sell your own stuff, or donate items to the PA Diversity Network booth to benefit PDN Programs including the Valley Gay Press and the PA Diversity Photo Project. Email info @padiversity.org or call 610-432-5449 to donate or rent a booth.**WOMEN** JOIN
THE PDN 5K CLASSIC
WALK (OR RUN) TEAM
TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER,
OCTOBER 18TH
READ MORE ON PAGE 3THE READING PRIDE
CELEBRATION IN JULY
WAS ATTENDED BY
THOUSANDS. SEE 250 PHOTOS
AT THE PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
WEB SITE - WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

THIS IS THE COMBINED AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE VALLEY GAY PRESS

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

What's That About?

2



Readers write or email "What's That About?" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



Dear Liz: I don't know if you remember me, but I need your help. I have been looking for information on PA's Hate Crime Law. I have found numerous sites on the overturning of the expansion of the law based on language. I thought I had read in the VGP that it was passed in PA (a while back), but I can not find any article that states that it was passed. Can you supply me more information on the passing of this bill. I did find "The Ethnic Intimidation and Institutional Vandalism Act" which is supposedly the name of PA's Hate Crime law, which was enacted somewhere in the late '80's. Is this the same law or are they two different animals? I did find a site that stated that PA's hate crime bill was passed in 2002. So now I am totally confused on the hate crime bill of PA. Can you supply me with more information on this bill??? Please. Signed, Melissa Emes

Dear Melissa, OK here's the deal -- Yes the original law, that was passed in the 80s, is called the Ethnic Intimidation Act and that is what the real name of the PA Hate Crimes Law is. The original Ethnic Intimidations Act covered race, religion, national origin... etc.

In 2002 an addendum to the law was passed that added sexual orientation, gender identity, and mental and physical disability and added the term -- 'actual or perceived.' This last addition was important because criminals had found a loophole when they attacked a person for being -- say -- an Arab -- and then if it turned out that the person that was attacked because the attacker hated Arabs was actually Mexican and then the attacker got off because the victim was not really the class that was targeted. So 'actual or perceived' is important, it made PA's Hate Crimes Law the most progressive in the US.

But then last year, a lower PA Court threw out the newer language of the (Ethnic Intimidation Act) Hate Crimes Law on a technicality based on the way the legislature crafted the law. And unfortunately the PA Supreme Court has upheld the lower court. A new law will now have to be passed by the legislature.

250 MORE PHOTOS OF READING PRIDE CELEBRATION CAN BE VIEWED AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG - & AFTER GREATER LV PRIDE IN THE PARK - SEE A HUGE PHOTO ALBUM OF THAT FESTIVAL AT THE PDN WEB SITE - CLICK ON 2008 EVENTS



LIZ BRADBURY APOLOGIZES TO GERI FARLEY FOR SPELLING HER NAME WRONG ON HER AWARD - I'LL SEND YOU A NEW ONE!

SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Laubner



"MAN" IN THE CITY

The Naked City has been one of New York's many monikers ever since the 1948 movie of the same name. Some people use the term metaphorically. Others take it at face value (literally). Earlier this month I sat down for a talk with Paul Nocera. Mr. Nocera is the President of Males Au Naturel, New York's naturist group for men. I wanted to know what it is like to be a gay nudist in New York.

"So how old is Males Au Naturel?"

"MAN is twenty four years old and a couple of the original members still participate. At its founding new members were interviewed. Potential members were blackballed if they wore socks to the interview. The interviewers felt they weren't true naturists. The interview for new members has since been dropped."

"What is a MAN event like?"

"Picture forty guys showing up for a party and checking their clothes at the door. While naturist groups around the country meet in members' houses, apartments in New York are too small, so various bars host private parties for the group. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Community Center was resistant to giving space to the group for our socials. After members agreed to dress to go to the bathroom out in the hallway we were allowed to use the center. I looked into trying to install a port-a-john in the corner of the room. The group has held four successful socials at the Center. In the summer months we take advantage of the weather with outdoor excursions to Sandy Hook and Fire Island."

"What happens when two people at a MAN event want to have sex with each other?"

"That's natural. We have a policy of no hands below the waist, be the waist your own or someone else's. Sometimes a member or members will host a separate after party at a different location. The after party is not an official MAN event."

"Where might a guy from the Lehigh Valley come in contact with MAN?"

We have a website, a clothed informational meeting every month at the community center. And we are marching in New York's Gay Parade. We won't be naked, but very nearly.

Come and check out MAN No strings attached (Literally). Happy Pride Chipmunk Readers!!

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at www.uucvpa.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level. The spring/summer schedule is now in effect.

Tennis: Every Sunday at 5:00pm at the Muhlenberg College courts 22nd & Turner Sts, Allentown. **Volleyball:** Every Thursday at 7:00pm at Catasauqua Playground 458 American St.. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. **Pinocle:** Starting in Fall the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. **Racquetball:** every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website. GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: Info@gloss.org. Website: www.gloss.org.

CIVIC AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held Sunday, August 3rd at 1pm for Civic Theatre of Allentown's production of the Tony award-winning musical Beauty and the Beast.

MUHLENBERG TO HOST BOOK READING

Tuesday, October 23, 2008 Reading and Booksigning of Angel Food and Devil Dogs at Muhlenberg College's Trexler Library, 7pm, Free and Open to the Public, 10% of book profits from this reading benefit the Muhlenberg GSA.

WOMEN-JOIN PDN'S 5K CLASSIC TEAM ON OCTOBER 18

PA Diversity Network 5k Team Captain Anne Huey has registered our team in the Women's 5K Classic to fight breast cancer. Join the PDN team for the 5k stroll, fast walk or run, and wonderful breakfast at the PDN headquarters afterward on October 18. Sign up at www.padiversity.org - see 2008 events - 5K race.

FACT SUMMER GAMES SEPT 7

Don't miss FACT's - Fighting AIDS Continuously Together - 23rd Annual Summer Games on September 7 at Rainbow Mountain Resort. Contact FACT at 610-820-5519, www.factlv.org for more information.

THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE IN THE PARK FESTIVAL WILL BE SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 FROM 12-6PM AT CEDAR BEACH PARK.

in Allentown, PA. Admission is \$2.00 per person. The event includes over 75 merchants, artisans, business services, community groups, and live entertainment. Join over 5,000 attendees. Festival highlights include: Art Gallery & Raffle, Doggie Drag Show, The Pride Pub, KidsSpace and much more.

Festival Entertainment to feature: Ultra Nate, trailblazing dance artist, www.ultranate.com; Nemesis Rising, LOGO's openly gay twin duo, www.nemesisrising.com; God-des and She, lesbian hip hop starts, www.god-des.com; Christine Havrilla, indie folk stars, www.christinehavrilla.com.

Get Booth applications and information on-line at info@prideglv.org.

LIZ BRADBURY HAS BEEN ELECTED CHAIR OF ALLENTOWN'S HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

TOUCHSTONE THEATRE EVENTS

Call for submissions of visual art: Touchstone's 2008-09 season will begin on 10/2-12/08 with Shipwrecked! The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (as told by himself), written by Donald Margulies. Submissions for the accompanying gallery exhibit are due by 9/1. Contact Liz Wheeler: 610-867-1689 or liz@touchstone.org. 9/19/08 - 8pm. (Ticket price: donations welcome) Movie Night with the C.I.A.: A Firehouse Friday event. Citizens Information Alliance uses peaceful local activism (documentary movie screenings, book nights, sign waving and door to door campaigns) to educate as many people as possible on the importance of the U.S. Constitution.

LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears social group meets at the Stonewall, 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moosehead. Bears and bear admirers, are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: iramfine@aol.com or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group :<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears> See a Bears definition at PDN's web site.

GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling -- 2nd Fridays, around 8:45 pm. If you are interested, please contact Ira Fine, GLOSS Bowling coordinator, at: iramfine@aol.com, 610-767-7363, 610-462-4786. New people are welcome, no competition, you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

Yard Sale at Kindall and Phil's at the corner of 15th and Hamilton in Allentown - September 6, beginning 9am (no early birds). Bring your own table and sell your stuff in exchange for giving two nice items to sell to benefit GLV Pride. Call 610-616-3949 for info.

PRIDE PAGEANT SUNDAY, AUG 3

Don't miss the sweet action as contestants compete for the title of "Queen & King" of Pride. The \$8 event cover for ages 18+ includes a lush dessert bar and will be held at Stonewall Moose Lounge Bar & Grille. Doors open at 7pm and the pageant begins at 8pm. All proceeds benefit Pride in the Park 2008.

MCCLV EVENT

Mark your calendars! The Newlywed, Not So Newlywed Game is on Saturday, August 16th at 7:00pm at MCCLV. Come, watch and have a good time!!! If you would like to participate in the game please contact Stephanie Schaffer at 20s30s@mcclv.org

4 GLORA

GLORA - The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown - is a social GLBT group. For details about events, email GLORA@dejazzd.com or write GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435. GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples. Everyone welcome!

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading media center. Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

GAY & LESBIAN EPISCOPALIANS & FRIENDS

GLEF meets regularly at Christ Episcopal Church at 435 Court Street, Reading, PA. For info contact Dwayne Messenger through www.berksglef.org.

BERKS GAY MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

The BGSM has grown so much these last few months with guys from all counties. The group is adult guys, singles and couples. It's a great way to meet others, make new friends and build a community of supportive gay men. Upcoming activities: Three pool parties/cookouts. Movie & dinner nights, the HUGE Halloween Party on October 18 and the HUGE Christmas party the first Sat of December, with Gay comedian Eddie Sarfaty will raise money that night for Broadway Cares and PA Diversity Network. This night the ladies are also welcome! To find out more about BGMSG email berksgmsg@aol.com

READING PFLAG

Meets at 6:30pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. PFLAG information: call Help Line: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., New Location see web site. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

Meeting Dates: Allentown: Aug 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 Dec. 4 Monroe: Aug. 1, October 3, December 5 Reading: Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18

SUPPORT GROUP - BERKS

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com VGP Drop-Off spot.

NEW GROUP!

GOBAB: GENTLEMEN OF BERKS AND BEYOND

A new group of men that believe in true friendship and working in a positive attitude towards life with each other and the gay community. Social activities, dinners, movies, hiking, biking, fun times and get together with friends who feel the same way that you do about sharing the brotherhood of life. www.GOBAB.org http://www.myspace.com/_gobab

PRIDE PICNIC AT KNOEBEL'S GROVE

Mark your calendar. August 9th 2008 is the 14th Annual PRIDE PICNIC at Knoebel's Grove in Elysburg PA.

The picnic organizers say, "We celebrated being a family in 2007. This year we gather to GIVE THANKS as a family at our "Family Reunion." "Family Reunion," is our theme as we enjoy a day of great foods, wild rides and good times for kids and adults. After careful discussion THE GAY WHIP is the ride of the day. We will all gather at 5pm and make this the most memorable ride event for everyone."

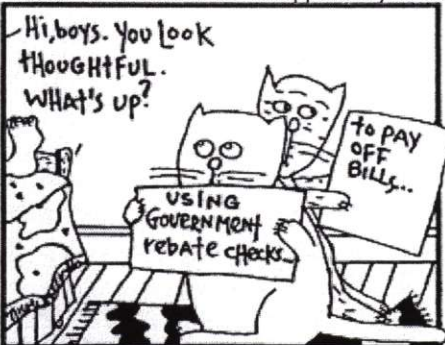
Annual picnic at Pavilion T-10. Registration begins at 11:00 am. The sit-down meal and raffle begins at 3:00 pm sharp. Plates and utensils will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring an entrée to share with others.

Suggestions: Bar B Que, Meat Pies, Meatballs. There is access to electrical outlets for any HOT crock pots. Questions and directions: Rick and Russ - kikosdad@ptd.net, Mike and Mike - 717-572-9111. Volunteers Needed Day of Event.

35 BERKS COUNTY COUPLES JOINED THE PA DIVERSITY NETWORK PHOTO PROJECT BY HAVING THEIR PICTURES TAKEN AT READING PRIDE

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.



SOOZ VIEWS

By Sue Sneeringer

MERYL AND MADAME ARMFELDT

As I write this, we are three days shy of the national opening of *Mamma Mia*, the movie. Along with *Dark Night* and *I Want To Believe*, the next film installment of the adventures of X-Files heroes, Fox Mulder and Dana Scully, this comprises my short list of summer movies I'm anxious to see. The list could be longer but then Hollywood doesn't care much about making movies I want to see. At least not in the summertime!

I never saw *Mamma Mia* on Broadway. Never had the slightest desire. But after watching the trailer and any other video clips I could scrounge up online, I am giddy as a schoolgirl to see Meryl Streep, our national treasure, do all that she does, magnificently, once again. The film has already conjured up great foreign box office sales and is sure to be a hit here, too. Perhaps the biggest hit Meryl will ever be in. Movie goers will be shocked (!) that she can sing and dance AND do comedy. True fans will know she always could.

She first came large into view on my radar in a small role in *Julia*. But I know I became a Meryl fanatic when I saw *The Deer Hunter*, as searing a portrait of small town life and the horrors of war as my generation has produced. In one performance after another, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Sophie's Choice*, *Silkwood*, *Plenty*, *Out of Africa*, *Ironweed* and a host of others, Meryl has shown us her astounding gift for disappearing into character. Her comedic skills were first displayed in *Heartburn* and came to fruition in *Postcards From The Edge*, a film that I watch often, as much for pleasure as enlightenment. At the end of that gem she sings and it's fine. But her voice never impressed me much until I saw what she does in *Mamma Mia*. It's as if all the things she has done well in pieces throughout her career mesh into a synergy here that will hopefully carry her on to another Oscar. She's only won twice, after all. But then I'm usually ready to give her an Oscar anytime because I believe she's that good. Because I believe she's the best we have.

I take off my director / playwright hats this summer and don the actor's cap myself as "Madame Armfeldt" in the Hugh Wheeler / Stephen Sondheim classic *A Little Night Music*, a special concert performance under the direction of Richard Bradbury for Genesius Theatre at the Reading Public Museum August 15th and 16th. I'm nervous as a tick about it but can't wait to perform alongside a wonderful cast. You don't want to miss this all too rarely performed classic, or the chance to see me in a dress! It won't be Meryl but I'll do my best! For more information and to order tickets for this gala fundraiser, visit www.genesiustheatre.org.

WDIY SIGNSON!

To Liz Bradbury and Patricia Sullivan,

In May, the Lehigh Valley Community Broadcasters Association, licensee of WDIY voted to approve the attached (the PDN) statement of nondiscrimination requested by you a few months ago.

WDIY and the LVCBA are proud of its history of diversity and is glad to support this initiative. I apologize for taking so long to get to this item. There has been a lot of activity on many fronts for several months at WDIY that have filled the board agendas.

Sincerely, Charles James - President, LVCBA, Licensee of WDIY

DIGNITY CHAPTER FOR GLBT CATHOLICS

Dignity of the Lehigh Valley gathers for worship and fellowship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown, PA, the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 6:00 PM. GLBT Catholics and friends are welcome. Those who desire to share in Eucharist are welcome to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Please contact dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com or visit the blog at: www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com.

"Stop by the Dignity booth at Pride in the Park!"

"A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING"

by Phil Healing

"GAY MARRIAGE - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?"

Wow, all these state laws changing. Isn't it exciting? Well, somewhat. It depends upon your individual situation. OK, let's go through some basic facts first, so we're all on the same page - there's nothing like ignorance to make one an expert. Only two states allow same sex marriage: Massachusetts and California. Civil Unions and/or registered partnerships are allowed in CA, CT, DC, HI, ME, NH, NJ, OR, VT and WA. Now get this: 41 states have statutes prohibiting same-sex marriage, and out of those 41, 27 of them actually have constitutional amendments prohibiting same sex marriage. Why don't we all just crawl back into our caves and scratch our armpits? Who has a passport? Would the last self respecting member of the LGBT family to leave please turn out the lights?

You might be thinking "None of this garbage really affects me at all." If that's the case, you're lucky; you're a minority in a minority. Sorry to make you hear that yet again, but in the gay world, there are quite a few minorities within our minority, as we're all too well aware.

As a gay man originally from the UK, my partner and I got married in the UK in July 2006 and we got married in Canada in September 2007. We have been together 16 years. When I was working in Jersey, we got medical coverage under McGreevey. I guess that's the only good thing I can think of about him. We sure as hell weren't covered because we were married (it was the NJ partnership law).

With a UK civil union, we have identical legal status to a marriage in the UK, ranging from tax exemptions and joint property rights, to next-of-kin status and shared parenting responsibilities. Partnership ceremonies are performed by a marriage registrar in exactly the same manner as a secular civil marriage. Thanks (or not) to Henry VIII, the UK effectively has a countrywide religion and to keep certain people happy, your majesty, the ceremony cannot be one with any religious content (although it's OK in Scotland - go figure).

Anyway, a civil union means, amongst many other things, that writing a will is less imperative; my civil partner can live and work with me in the UK and in every country that recognizes that union, namely the entire European Union (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden), South Africa, Norway (1/1/09), and of course, our dear old friend, Canada.

Do you know how archaic and fearful people are? Is it due to lack of worldly wisdom? Did you know that Andorra, Belgium, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary (1-1-2009), Iceland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Uruguay ALL have same sex marriage, civil unions or registered partnerships? Did you know that only 12% of the US population have a passport? Did you know that only 12% of the British go to church?

So, when my work visa expires, we may well be going to see a dear old friend for a while. If only I was a girl.

THIS IS PHIL'S FIRST VGP COLUMN - AFTER THIS ISSUE, PHIL'S COLUMN WILL ALTERNATE WITH "SCOTTY IN THE CITY"

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK-see **FACT**

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BGMMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uuch_cuups@yahoo.com

DIGNITY - "GLBT-friendly ministry for Catholics and their friends"- meets at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00 pm. DignityLHV.blogspot.com Dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net

equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GaydarMagazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com

GLEE at Air Products

GLEF - Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians in Berks County, Christ Episcopal Church, in Reading, 610-374-8269, email info@berksglef.org

GLISN-at Dun & Bradstreet

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW-at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAL group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com, www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652

LVGMC - Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mccclv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network - 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

AUGUST 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 GLOSS	2 WDIY CAMPING GLOSS
3 GLOSS UUCV PRIDE PAGEANT	4 RAA SC	5 LVGMC LV PFLAG Yappy Hour	6 HAVEN SPECTRUM	7 RAA GLOSS	8 GLOSS GLOSS Bowling	9 DIG GLOSS KNOEBEL'S
10 WDIY GLOSS MCC JUCLV	11 RAA	12 LVGMC R PFLAG	13 HAVEN SPECTRUM	14 GLOSS RAA SILENT WITNESS TRAINING	15	16 GLOSS BOOK READING MCC GAME
17 LV PRIDE in the PARK	18 RAA SC	19 LVGMC Yappy Hour	20 HAVEN SPECTRUM	21 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	22	23 DIG WDIY GLOSS
24 GLOSS MCC	25 RAA	26 LVGMC	27 HAVEN SPECTRUM	28 RAA GLOSS	29 MCC Movie	30 WDIY GLOSS
31						

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA SC	2 LV PFLAG LVGMC Yappy Hour	3 HAVEN SPECTRUM	4	5	6 GLOSS PHIL & KIM's Yard Sale
7 FACT Summer Games	8 RAA	9 LVGMC MCC	10 HAVEN SPECTRUM	11 RAA GLOSS	12 GLOSS Bowling	13 REN WDIY GLOSS
14 LV GLOSS MCC Interweave	15 RAA SC	16 LVGMC Yappy Hour	17 SPECTRUM TEJAS HAVEN	18 RAA GLOSS	19 Touchstone	20 WDIY GLOSS
21 MCC WDIY GLOSS UUCV	22 RAA	23 LVGMC Muhlenberg Speaker	24 M PFLAG HAVEN SPECTRUM	25 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	26	27 DIG GLOSS WDIY
28 GLOSS MCC UUCV WDIY	29 RAA	30				

OCTOBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAVEN SPECTRUM	2 RAA GLOSS TOUCHSTONE	3 PHOTO PROJECT LANCASTER	4 MCC BANQUE BEARS
5 PDN YARD SALE DIAMONZ	6 RAA SC	7 LVGMC LV PFLAG	8 SPECTRUM HAVEN	9 RAA GLOSS	10 GLOSS Bowling	11 WDIY GLOSS REN DIG
12 MATTHEW SHEPARD MEMORIAL	13 RAA	14 R PFLAG LVGMC	15 HAVEN SPECTRUM	16 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	17 PHOTO PROJECT LANCASTER	18 BGMS 5K CLASSI
19 GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCV	20 RAA SC	21	22 HAVEN SPECTRUM	23 RAA GLOSS Muhlenberg	24 BOOK READING	25 WDIY DIGNITY GLOSS
26 WDIY UUCV GLOSS MCC CUUPS	27 RAA	28 LVGMC	29 HAVEN SPECTRUM	30	31 TOUCHSTONE	

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpsta/lvpsa/whatsa.htm

Quakers-LV Friends Meeting-Rt 512 N of Rte 22 Bethlehem, Worship 9:30am. 610-691-3411.
RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniearluca@msn.com

Ren - Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG 610-967-5219

Reading Pride - Festival in Reading

www.readingpridecelebration.org

SC Sanctuary Counseling:GBT Support

Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old

Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-

385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com

Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449,

VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902

Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee

Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
SANCTUARY COUNSELING

1ST & 3RD MONDAY

LYGMC REHEARSALS - TUES

LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAY

READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES

ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST TUES

MCCLV TEJAS WOMANS GRP - WEDS

LV HAVEN - WEDS

READING SPECTRUM - WEDS

MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS

JAN, MARIJUN, SEPT, DEC ONLY

GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS

GAME NITE - SKYY LOUNGE - THURS

POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS

GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT

GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI

EUNUCHOS - 2ND & 4TH FRI

MCCLV MOVIES - LAST FRI

MCCLV POTLUCK - LAST SUN

MCCLV WEIGHT LOSS - SUNS

MCC FREE MARKET-SEPT SUNS

LV BEARS - 1ST SAT

GLOSS PINOCLE - 2ND SAT

RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT

GLOSS TENNIS - SUNS

INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY

DIGNITY - 2ND & 4TH SUN

AUG 1-3 - GLOSS CAMPING

AUG 3 - PRIDE PAGEANT

AUG 9 - KNOBELS PICNIC

AUG 14 - SILENT WEDNESS

AUG 16 - BOOK READING

@ DIAMONZ

AUG 16 - MCCLV GAME

AUG 17 - GLV PRIDE FESTIVAL

SEPT 6 - P&K YARD SALE

SEPT 7 - FACT SUMMER GAMES

SEPT 19 - TOUCHSTONE

SEPT 23 - MUHLENBERG SPEAKER

OCT 2-DEC 8 - TOUCHSTONE

OCT 3 - PHOTO PROJECT

RECEPTION IN LANCASTER

OCT 4 - MCCLV BANQUET

OCT 5 - PDN YARD SALE

OCT 12 - MATTHEW SHEPARD

OCT 17 - PHOTO PROJECT

OCT 18 - WOMENS SK CLASSIC

OCT 18 - BGMSG

OCT 23 - BOOK READING

@ MUHLENBERG

RECEPTION IN LANCASTER

PDN LIST OF 2008

EVENTS:

August 16 -- Book Reading at Diamonz

August 17 -- PDN will participate in

Greater Lehigh Valley Pride in the Park

October 3 -- Photo Project in Lancaster

October 5 -- PDN Yard Sale @ Diamonz

October 12 -- Matthew Shepard Memorial

at Muhlenberg

October 12 -- Book Reading in P'Town

October 16 -- PDN's Liz Bradbury

presents Gay History @ Pottsville PFLAG

October 17 -- Photo Project and book

reading in Lancaster

October 18 -- 5K Breast Cancer Classic,

October 23 -- Book reading at

Muhlenberg

November 15 -- RACC Presentation

November, 2008 -- PDN Bingo

December 2008 -- Rainbow Families

Christmas Party with MCCLV

December 2008 -- Berks Gay Men's

Social Group Party and Comedy Night -

benefits Broadway Cares and PDN

DOGGIE DRAG SHOW AT PRIDE IN THE PARK

The Camp Bow Wow Doggie Drag Show welcomes all pets (and owners too) to participate! Make the costume, brush the hair, clip the nails, teach the trick. Participants judged and prizes awarded in three categories: "MOST CREATIVE," "PET & OWNER LOOK ALIKE," "BIGGEST DIVA." Audience members can vote for the "TOP-DOG" by placing donations in their favorite doggies' dish.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH LV

Last Sunday of the Month Potluck @

MCCLV follows the morning worship service!

Bring a dish to share. For more info contact

Fellowship Ministry Leader Joleane Ferris at

fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org

MCCLV Weight Loss Support Group-

meets on Sundays following the 10:30 AM

morning worship. Information: Stephanie

Heller: wishiwasatadeadshow@yahoo.com

MCCLV Sunday Morning Bible Study -

every Sunday at 8:30 AM. Information,

christian.education@mcclv.org.

MCC Free Market - Sundays in September,

after morning worship service, tables will be

set up and free produce offered to all in need.

Gardeners are asked to donate their extra

produce to the church so it can be given away.

To participate contact MCCLV: 610-709-8800

Annual Banquet 2008 Oct. 4th @ 6pm

Saturday, Lee Gribbens on Main, Emmaus.

Pastor Appreciation Surprise - Host:

MCCLV Congregant Oct. 5 @ 11am Sunday

All U Can Eat Brunch Fundraiser November

8 @ 10am (setup) 11am (mealtime)

PRIDE ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

12pm - Opening Ceremonies

1pm - Nemesis Rising

2pm - Christine Havrilla

3pm - Camp Bow Wow Doggie Drag Show

4pm - God-des & She

5pm - Ultra Naté

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

NEW MAG RISES FROM THE ASHES!?

Since I announced the end of Gaydar Magazine in the last issue I have received emails, phone calls and spoken directly with people who have said they will miss it and would like to see it continue and have offered to help in its production. My bf Gary has even said he would like to be more involved.

So here's the thing. Because of the conflict with the name Gaydar we are working on a new name. I would like to take the most popular features of Gaydar (celebrity interviews, reviews, hot models...) and add more features and columns. Most importantly I would like this publication to promote the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas as a gay friendly place for people outside the LV to invest in whether, as a day visit, vacation destination, to open a business, for a second home or to make a move here permanently.

With the end of Philly's HX magazine I have had inquiries from businesses there to advertise in Gaydar. In order to promote the advertisers, Gary and I have taken this issue to numerous Pride events from New Hope to NJ to Philly to NYC to Reading to Harrisburg and dropped it at bars and GLBT friendly establishments in those cities as well as numerous deliveries to our own Candida's, Diamonz and The Stonewall. We even took some to Ogunquit, Maine where I personally handed some to Massachusetts Representative Barney Frank and his boyfriend and the grandson of Al Capone (who just wrote a book about that legacy and being gay and has a reality show premiering in the fall). Friends have been kind enough to offer to drop them while on vacation.

We are looking for writers, photographers, advertisers, people who have web design skills and people to help get advertising. As all the ad revenue from previous issues has gone into the printing of each issue, we would happily and gratefully accept donations for start up costs for this new publication.

Though paper and ink costs keep rising we are going to attempt to keep ad rates the same as well as the quality of the heavy stock paper we have been using. Please let me know if this is something you'd like to see for our community, what you liked and disliked about Gaydar so we can make improvements with the new publication and what, if anything, you can contribute. A heartfelt thank you to all who supported Gaydar and to those of you who will take the time to share your thoughts, talent and/or time regarding the new gay magazine. Contact me at STL327@hotmail.com or gaydarmagazine@hotmail.com (until October 2008) Thanks!!!



by Earl and Donnie Snyder

SUMMER FAMILY FUN

So far the summer has been wonderful. Hot and humid, yet so much fun. Picnics, playgrounds, trips to the beach, carnivals, festivals and fairs. Lots of cotton candy, candy apples and ice cream too. It's a time of hot dogs and hamburgers, visits to cousins and friends, playing in the pool, boating, fishing and family vacations. As a family we look forward to the summers. The days are longer, the weather is great, and there is so much to do. Some times there is too much to do, in such a short period of time that it is nice to just stop and relax as well.

We officially started off our summer with PDN's Rainbow Families Picnic at Emmaus Community Park on June 1. It was a wonderful time for the parents and kids that were there. About 30 people were in attendance. Lesbian mothers and gay dads with their kids, some grandparents, and even PDN board members and their friends helping to make the day fun. There were tiny little babies and some high school age teenagers there. Kids played, parents relaxed, chatted and indulged in all of the picnic goodies that everyone so graciously brought to share. Parents shared child-raising stories, advice, while the kids laughed and played everything from t-ball to the hula-hoop. Even a brief shower failed to put a damper on the fun. Rumor has it that a PDN board member was spotted hula-hooping just as the raindrops began to fall.

By the time the few rain drops hit, the picnic had been going for awhile, so a few felt it was time to call it a day. Others decided to go swimming in the pool when the sun hastily returned. Others hung out and chatted. Parents made new friends and kids made new playmates. With the rain and sun, it is almost certain there was a rainbow overhead, but if there was we did not notice. The diversity of the Rainbow Families was just as beautiful.

Special thanks to PDN for sponsoring this event, board member Adrian Shanker for making balloon animals, and to volunteer Hannah Mesouani for helping with the grilling.

For some additional family fun this summer, information on the Knoebel's event is posted on page 1&4. Although it is not an official Rainbow Family event, it is definitely a Rainbow Family recommended event. Hope to see you all there!

**READ MORE IN THE
RAINBOW FAMILIES
SECTION OF
PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.**



REPORT FROM MISS GAY PA 2008 PAGEANT

"Well, Lehigh Valley...your local female illusionists are making their mark. This year there were 10 contestants at Liquid 891 in Harrisburg competing for the coveted title of Miss Gay PA 2008, 3 being from Allentown. Pretty decent odds if you ask me. The 2 day competition was intense. Deadlines, critique and tight changing quarters did not deter our "girls" from doing what they do best...entertain."

"Although this was my first year in the America Pageant system, I was comfortable with all the surroundings. It was actually fun and I personally recommend the challenge to our other performers. You learn so much to help with the craft. Miss America Michaela Kay is as sweet and helpful as she is beautiful. Although I missed the Top 5 by the skin of my teeth, my impression was made. I was different and my talent number, 'My New Philosophy' from 'Your a Good Man Charlie Brown' was 'refreshing' and 'original.' I have no regrets and want to offer my congratulations to the newly crowned Miss Gay PA 2008...Vicki Dominatrix and her first alternate Domiana Dupree St. James. Both of our Allentown girls. I remember my onstage question from running for Miss Stonewall 2008, 'Do I think there is a need for the art of Female Illusion?' my answer in short. 'Yes!' I believe we clearly proved that.

So, from all of us local queens...we challenge you to come out and support us and your community. Let us entertain you. Ciao for now..." Madalyne DeDa

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Ask a "Family" Lawyer By Attorney Kate Lynn

Dear Kate: My girlfriend has a nine-year-old daughter. We have been together since her daughter was two years old; my girlfriend has been a stay-at-home mom and I have been working to support our family. Now my girlfriend has moved out of our home and will not permit me to see or call her daughter. Do I have any rights? I'm sure her daughter is confused and sad!

Signed, Lonely Parent without a Child

Dear Lonely, The first question is whether you have standing to pursue a custody action in court.

The term "in loco parentis" refers to a person who puts self in the situation of a lawful parent by assuming the obligations incident to the parental relationship without going through the formality of a legal adoption. In *LSK v HAN*, 813 A.2d 872 (Pa. Super. 2002), the parent/mother denied the partner contact with their children. The courts detailed partial physical custody for the partner, but in a related action ordered the partner to pay child support to the parent/mother pursuant to the child support guidelines. The court found that the partner could not argue she was similar to a stepparent and thus not liable for child support when she was involved with the artificial insemination of the parent/mother, acted as a co-parent, attended childbirth classes and was active in the delivery room; she also assisted in selecting names for the children and cared for the children at home while the parent/mother returned to the workforce. Every case will be fact specific and depend upon the details of parenting within the family unit. A "best interest of the child" analysis will be conducted. However, you do have legal standing and case law to back up your request to permit some form of partial physical custody between you and your daughter.

For future reference, how can you cement a relationship with your partner's child? A "second parent adoption" permits a same-sex parent to adopt his or her partner's child without the necessity of terminating that partner's parental rights. Pennsylvania permits second parent adoptions under an appellate case called *In re Adoption of RBF*, 569 Pa. 269 (Pa. 2002).

As of 2007, four states permitted second parent adoptions by statute, 6 states and the District of Columbia have had appellate courts rule in favor of second parent adoptions, and in 15 states trial courts ruled in favor of such adoptions. The other parent's parental rights must be terminated unless there are no rights to terminate, such as the case in an artificial insemination with an unknown sperm donor.

Of course, whether an adoption petition is granted is ultimately left to the sound discretion of the trial court. Happy Pride, and know your rights!

Disclaimer: The information presented herein is for information only, and should not be construed to be formal legal advice nor the formation of an attorney-client relationship. A qualified legal professional must possess full knowledge of a client's particular facts and circumstances in order to render a valid legal opinion.

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker QUEER AND JEWISH STUDIES EXPERT TO SPEAK AT MUHLENBERG

Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz will be speaking at Muhlenberg College at 7pm on Tuesday, September 23rd. Her talk will be in the Miller Forum of Moyer Hall and is sponsored in part by the GSA. Melanie is an activist and scholar of Queer studies and Jewish studies. Her talk will combine the two subjects. Dr. Kaye/Kantrowitz has a PhD from UC Berkeley, where she taught Berkeley's first women's studies course. She is considered a pioneer of Jewish Women's and Queer studies and has written many books and given many speeches highlighting these themes.

One of her essays was featured in "Nice Jewish Girls" the first LGBT Jewish themed anthology, written in the mid-1980's. Since then, she has written about lesbian power dynamics, racial politics, feminist Judaism, Israel/Palestine, and more. She has taught all over the US, twice as a distinguished chair--at Hamilton College and at Brooklyn College/CUNY--and in fields as diverse as Jewish Studies, Women's Studies, Urban Studies, Race Theory, Public Policy, Gender and Queer Studies. For five years she directed the Queens College/CUNY Worker Education Extension Center in Manhattan.

Dr. Kaye/Kantrowitz currently teaches at Queens College in Jewish Studies, History and Comparative Literature, and recently taught in the Bard College Prison Initiative. She gave up a tenured teaching position to move to New York to work against racism within the Jewish Community.

This is an LGBT/Faith event you don't want to miss. It will be free and open to the public. Contact Jillian Lowery with more questions: 484-664-3235

INTERWEAVE AT UUC

Interweave Continental had a visible presence at the recent Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly (GA) in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida -- with over 3000 attendees. During GA, Interweave hosted an annual banquet with a presentation of the Mark DeWolfe award, celebrating longtime outstanding achievement in queer activism. Interweave's winning sermon was delivered to much applause. Congratulations to the winner, Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern for her sermon, "How to Be a Great Ally" (available online).

Interweave co-sponsored & provided local speaker, Allyson Diane Hamm for a well-received & attended panel workshop called Cutting Across Oppressions, which encouraged activism crossing racial, gender & sexual orientation lines. It focused on anti-discrimination laws & the case of Susan Stanton, a transwoman who lost her job in a very public way & the positive UU response coming from diverse racial, religious & other backgrounds.

Read more about Interweave at the PDN web site www.padiversity.org.

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK PHOTO PROJECT 275 SAME-SEX COUPLES: FACING INEQUALITY IN LANCASTER FOR OCTOBER

The PDN Photo Project will be on display in Lancaster at the Warner Gallery, 323 N. Queen St. in October. Opening reception on October 3rd, begins at 6pm. Photos of Lancaster area couples will be taken for the Project. On October 17th, a special reception for the new Lancaster photos will also include a silent auction fundraiser for Rainbow Rose Community and PA Diversity Network and a book reading of Liz Bradbury's lesbian mystery/romance novel Angel Food and Devil Dogs. For more information contact event organizer Barry Russell of Rainbow Rose Community at info@rainbowrosecommunity.org or check the PA Diversity web site.

This is an on-going project. If you and your same-sex partner would like to join it, call Photo Project creator Liz Bradbury at PDN: 610-432-5449, or email lbradbury@padiversity.org. Photos will also be taken at the PADiversity Network booth at the GLV Pride Festival.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org
Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury
Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan
Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker, Kaye Lynn, Phil Healing and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of Pennsylvania Diversity Network. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule
Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N. 19th St. Allentown
Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (UUCV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem
Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCV
10 Libraries in Berks County
Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading
Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County), Reading Community Theatre - 11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading
Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA
Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network
Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center
Reading Area Community College GSA 48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Diamond Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
The Woods Campground
Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St. Reading
Sanctuary Counseling -- 515 Old Swede Road, Douglasville

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month. PDN's membership cycle begins in January. Circulation: 1000-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500, monthly, 35k readers a year.
To Contact Valley Gay Press:
Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org
To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Name/s _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5

☐ Individual dues \$15

☐ Family dues \$20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additional contribution
Make checks payable to PDN.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY PAYING YOUR DUES NOW

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 275 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2009 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

**TO PAY YOUR PDN
DUES ON LINE!
JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG
IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm
2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown,
AA Hotline:610-882-0558.

SUPPORT PDN BY SEARCHING THE NET

You can support PA Diversity Network with every computer search at **no cost to you**. Instead of Google searches, start using Goodsearch.com as your search engine (powered by Yahoo) and choose the charity "Pennsylvania Diversity Network." Every search will give PA Diversity Network and all its programs including the Valley Gay Press, one penny. If 100 people search 2 times a day -- that is \$730 per year!

PA Diversity provides the community with a great amount of support and resources and this is an easy way to support PDN. Make Goodsearch your home page!!!



LIZ OUT LOUD

By Liz Bradbury

"MAGIC WORDS PLEDGE DRIVE"

Anti-gay protesters were at the Reading Pride Festival, and they'll probably be at the Lehigh Valley Festival, too. Luckily Silent Witness, with their rainbow umbrellas, were at Reading to block these repressed kooks. Let's hope Silent Witness is in place for GLV Pride, too.

Here's the problem though...we just aren't getting enough out of these creepy protesters presence!

At the Reading Festival, I overheard one of the Silent Witness people telling Trish that Silent Witness's goal is to put these protesters out of business by totally ignoring them. That's what they train the Witnesses to do - non-interaction, just hold the umbrellas and don't engage with the protesters. The thing is...I don't think this will "put the protesters out of business."

Silent Witness provides a very significant service to our community. They keep our GLBTA people from "interacting" with the annoying protesters. This is really important because what the protesters seem to want is for our folks to lash out at them physically, so protesters can sue gay people for assault and get big financial judgments. Silent Witness is there as the barrier. Silent Witness keeps our people non-confrontational. Also, Silent Witness protects our people from the occasionally rampant protester who becomes physically aggressive toward us.

But Silent Witnesses umbrellas don't really help us completely ignore the protesters. After all, we're fabulous. We love the rainbow colors of the umbrellas. It's hard not to look at them. The protesters bring little step ladders with them so they can climb up and shout annoying and hateful things over the top of the umbrellas. It makes for a fascinating tableau - in a "car wreck" kind of way. In some ways, the Silent Witness umbrellas focus us on the protesters.

Q: What can we do? **A:** Let's have a gentle pledge drive that includes a bit of comedy!

Here's how the "Magic Words Pledge Drive" works: Community people make a pledge that every time the protesters say one of the magic words, they'll donate ten cents into a pool of money that will go to GLBT supportive groups. We'll pick out ten of the protesters' favorite words: Satan, devil, abomination, Bible, God, Jesus, sin, "homo-sexy-al", lifestyle, ex-gay -- and every time a protester yells one of those words, one of our volunteers will ring a Ding-Dong School bell signifying that the amount pledged has gone up again. Those who pledge can cap their amount at any level they want for example: Pledge 10 cents for each time they say one of the words, with a maximum cap of \$20, \$50, or \$100.

A share of the money will go to support Silent Witness, because their job is very important, and a share can go to each other GLBTA organization that provides two volunteers to work the drive for a two hour shift. One volunteer will hold a sign explaining the "Magic Words Pledge Drive" and ring the big bell every time one of the words is said, and the other volunteer will note down how many times the words are said, and occasionally post what the earnings are up to. The constant bell ringing will be heard all over the festival, and GLBTA people will be smiling at every ring!

In other words: Every time a bell ring our angels get more wings!!!

I'll be working on getting people to pledge and volunteer. If you want to do either - please email me: LBradbury@padiversity.org.

TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan

DISCRIMINATION IN THE LIBRARY?

Last year, PDN donated a copy of "King & King" to the Allentown Public Library. In February, we were told the book would be placed on a parental review shelf. In other words, children would not be able to self-select the book. Also, the bookplate with PDN contact information would be replaced with the Allentown Public Library bookplate, however, PDN would be credited with the donation. Kathryn Stephanoff, the Library Director, suggested that we could display the Valley Gay Press on the rack near the elevator so patrons could learn about Pennsylvania Diversity Network. So we agreed to the compromise.

Soon after the Valley Gay Presses were delivered, I didn't find any on the rack. I hoped it was because they were popular, but to be sure, I checked at the desk and was referred to the reference librarian. The reference librarian hesitated momentarily when I asked for the Valley Gay Press, then went to a desk behind the reference counter, opened an envelope, took one out and asked if I wanted it. I explained that the patrons who could most benefit from our literature were the least likely to seek it out at the reference desk and that we had been told it would be placed on the rack near the elevator.

I called Ms. Stephanoff about this. She said putting the VGP behind the reference desk was a board decision. "Are all periodicals reviewed by the Board?" I asked. She indicated that they were not, but that she felt the Board might not be familiar with our publication. Still, I was unable to get a clear indication for the basis of the Board's decision. I said I was disappointed that the Allentown Public Library would not publicly display the Valley Gay Press and I pointed out that 10 Berks County Libraries display it.

The rack near the elevator turns out to be specifically designated for not-for-profits. So I called to be absolutely sure Ms. Stephanoff understood we are a not-for-profit. At that point she said she didn't think the rack was still available for display. Finally, I said what I had been thinking all along, in the absence of any substantially reasonable evidence to the contrary, "I have a feeling that our materials are being unnecessarily censored and that there is a possibility of discrimination involved. After all, this is the City of Allentown, the Library is publicly funded and we are a bonified not-for-profit."

It seems a member of the Board is concerned because of the number of children who use the library. We know that at least one library board member voted against our rights while he was a member of City Council, so it is not inconceivable that this matter is being looked at with prejudice. Regardless, the fact that children use the library is not a sufficient reason to deny the public display of the VGP.

Ms. Stephanoff has assured me she feels this can be resolved and has asked that I give her until after the August Board Meeting to bring this to a satisfactory solution.

Stay tuned.



RECEIVE SILENT WITNESS TRAINING BE A SILENT WITNESS AT PRIDE IN THE PARK 2008

Local training will be held Thursday, August 14 at 7:00pm. Training will be held at the Pride GLV office at 1101 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown

Silent Witness PA (SWPA) is an organization of gay and straight allies dedicated to providing a non-confrontational buffer between those who condemn others based on their sexual orientation or identity and those they condemn.

Silent Witnesses receive significant training in non-confrontation techniques specially designed for the type of work they do. Only those who have received this training may participate in an event as a Silent Witness.

POP QUIZ 12

1. A Presidential Executive Order ended segregation of the US military ___ years ago. A. 30 B. 45 C. 60 D. 80
2. The President whose executive order desegregated the US Military was: A. Franklin Roosevelt B. Harry Truman C. Dwight Eisenhower D. John Kennedy
3. In July 2008, there were hearings in Congress on Don't Ask Don't Tell. The last time there were Congressional hearings in Washington on Don't Ask Don't Tell was ___ years ago. A. 3 B. 7 C. 11 D. 15
4. According to Congressman Patrick Murphy in the Congressional Hearing, ___ trained soldiers including translators of Arabic, have been "fired" from the military, not for sexual misconduct, but solely because they were gay. A. 600, 12 B. 2000, 22 C. 7000, 40 D. 12,000, 58
5. True or False: It is a violation of Don't Ask Don't Tell for a soldier to tell a Military Chaplain that he thinks he is gay but has never acted on it.
6. T or F: John McCain supports Don't Ask Don't Tell and believes it should stay in place.
7. T or F: Barack Obama supports repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell.
8. T or F: Barack Obama supports ENDA - the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would ban discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.
9. T or F: John McCain voted against ENDA in the Senate.
- T or F: This country allows gay people in the military: 10. England? 11. Venezuela? 12. France? 13. Israel? 14. Australia? 15. Estonia? 16. Russia?

1 C 2 B 3 D 4 D 5 T 6 T 7 F 8 T 9 F 10 T 11 F 12 T 13 T 14 T 15 F 16 F

QUOTE #4

"Donna Cruciani was recently honored with the first Executive Director's Community Service Award given by the Pennsylvania Diversity Network...Cruciani's honor cited her work to start the Gay and Lesbian Organization in the Workplace at PPL and her leadership as past president of the organization." -- part of a full article about Donna's award in the inter-corp newsletter **PPL Today** that circulates to 13,000 national PPL employees.

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW BY LIZ BRADBURY & OTHER REVIEWERS

The Valley Gay Press Book Review has been reviewing books every month for several years. The Book Review section welcomes reviewers of books of interest to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community to submit their reviews for publication in the VGP. VGP Book Reviews are also published on Amazon.com at the sites of their respective books.

If you would like to review a book in the VGP, please contact Liz Bradbury at lbradbury@padiversity.org or call 610-432-5449. Reviews should be from 150 to 200 words long. They should be about a book that is of specific interest to the GLBT Community, and they should be clearly and concisely written. Your first and last name must also accompany the review.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network
GLBT Infoline
PA-GALA
Rainbow Families
Valley Gay Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission
Safe Space of Lehigh University
PFLAG Lehigh Valley
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
GLORIA
Pride of the GLV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUALL at Agere
Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest
9th Street Shelter Allentown
LV Community Action Committee
GLEE at Air Products
FACT
AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
GLOSS
LEPOCO
GLSN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center
Theatre Outlet
Integrity - Bethlehem
The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Civic Theater
19th Street Theatre
The Latin Alliance
The Enigma Players
New Covenant Family Ministries
Properties of Merit
Allentown City Democratic Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance
LV Turning Point
Muhlenberg Theater Association
LV Crime Victims Council
Touchstone Theater
Congregation Am Rakalah
LV Progressive Students' Alliance
The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown
United Friends School Quakertown
LV Transsexual Coalition
Lehigh Valley Transmen
GLEF (Gay & Lesbian Episcopalians & Friends)
Old Allentown Preservation Association
The Center for Animal Health and Welfare

WDIY

MUHLENBERG TO HOST MATTHEW SHEPARD MEMORIAL

Sunday, October 12, 2008 -- Community-wide Matthew Shepard 10th year anniversary memorial service. 7pm in Egner Memorial Chapel at Muhlenberg College. Sunday, October 12, 2008. More info TBA

QUOTE #1

TASK FORCE HAILS MASSACHUSETTS VOTE TO REPEAL 1913 MARRIAGE LAW

The Task Force hails the Massachusetts House's 118-to-35 vote today to repeal a 1913 law that prevents Massachusetts from marrying out-of-state couples if their marriages would not be legal in their home states. On July 15, the state Senate voted to repeal the measure; Gov. Deval Patrick has said he will sign the repeal.

"The 1913 law, a shameful vestige from another wrong-headed time of denying marriage to interracial couples, became Gov. Mitt Romney's archaic tool in his unsuccessful bid to deny the freedom to marry to same-sex couples. Not only does today's House vote repudiate Romney's efforts to block our marriages in Massachusetts, it also invites couples from around the United States to experience the joy and happiness of celebrating their lives by becoming married in the Bay State." -- Task Force Exec Dir Rea Carey

QUOTE #2

"Today I challenge our nation to commit to producing 100 percent of our electricity from renewable energy and truly clean carbon-free sources within 10 years." -- Al Gore

QUOTE #3

"Everything contains some silence." -- Openly Gay writer Kay Ryan, who has become the 16th US poet laureate.

Distelfink © 8/08 by Ruby Zebu "What's Wrong With This Story?"

This year, the PA Catholic Conference led the effort to push a PA State Constitutional ban on legal recognition of all same-sex relationships. All PA same-sex couples would be effected (not just Catholics). The PA Catholic Conference's efforts were fueled by a \$300,000 grant from the Catholic men's organization the Knights of Columbus.

Also this year the news has been reporting the closings of 18 Lehigh Valley area Catholic Churches due to costs. Reports indicate that many lifetime parishioners feel abandoned.

Hey, I've got an idea...

